

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
NATCHITOCHEES LEVEE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT
February 11, 2014
6:00 p.m.**

BE IT KNOWN that a Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Natchitoches Levee and Drainage District was called in the Police Jury Meeting Room, Natchitoches Parish Courthouse, Natchitoches, Louisiana, on February 11, 2014, with a quorum being present, and roll was called as follows, to-wit:

Board Members present were:

Karlton Methvin, President/Administrator
Doris Rogé, Member
Billy Giddens, Member
Charles Brazzel, Jr., Member
Mark Swafford, Member
Adolph Sklar, Jr. Member
Rayburn Smith, Member

Absent were:

Janet Jones, Secretary

Also present were:

Brad Sticker, DOTD Engineer
Billy Dunn, Foreman
Louis Wellan
Mr. Sers

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Natchitoches Levee & Drainage District was called to order at 6:00 p.m by the President, Karlton Methvin.

The minutes of the January, 2014 meeting were read and discussed. A Motion was made by Adolph Sklar, Jr., and seconded by Doris Rogé, to approve the January, 2014 minutes. The Motion passed unanimously.

The January, 2014 financial statement was reviewed and discussed. Following discussion, a Motion was made by Rayburn Smith and seconded by Mark Swafford to approve the January, 2014 financial statement. This Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Sers asked to address the Board regarding flooding of his property in southern Natchitoches Parish. Mr. Sers advised the Board that the drainage ditch adjacent to his property needs to be cleaned. The ditch runs across property owned by Charles Roque. Billy Dunn advised that he was aware some work needed to be done on the ditch, but Mr. Roque did not want us on his property. Ronald Corkern advised the Board that Revised Statute 38:113 gave the Board control over all over all public drainage channels within the limits of the Natchitoches Levee & Drainage District. In addition to control over the channel itself, the Levee Board also has control over a space of 100' on both sides of the banks of the drainage ditches. Consequently, it was Corkern's opinion that the Board did not need permission from Mr. Roque to access this drainage ditch. It was agreed that as soon as it got dry enough for Billy Dunn to walk the ditch he would inspect same and see what needed to be done to improve the flow of water. Charles Brazzel, Jr. stated that he was friends with Mr. Roque and would contact him concerning this matter.

Mr. Louis Wellan then addressed the Board with respect to his property located in the Cloutierville area. There is a drainage ditch that crosses his property, as well as the Colbert property, that was cleaned out 8 or 9 years ago. Mr. Wellan provided the Board with photographs of the area that had been taken shortly after it was cleaned a number of years ago. Mr. Wellan asked the Board to again clean the ditch and the 100' right of way on each side of the ditch. Billy Dunn advised the Board that he was familiar with the ditch and although the right of way on each side of the ditch had grown up, the ditch was still functional and the vegetation in the ditch was not restricting the flow of water. There was further discussion regarding the Board's responsibility to clean the 100' right of way on each side of the ditch. Following further discussion, the consensus of the Board was it was the Board's function to drain water, and as long as the ditch was serving this purpose then the Board, although it may have the right to clean an area of 100' on each side of the bank, does not have the obligation to do so. The Board felt it did not have sufficient manpower to keep clean an area of 100' on each side of all of the ditches within its jurisdiction. It was agreed that Mr. Dunn would inspect the ditch in question when it got dry and determine if any cleaning of the ditch, itself, needed to be done to maintain its effectiveness.

The maintenance report was given by Billy Dunn. Mr. Dunn reported on the purchase of ice for his crew which had been

discussed at the previous Board meeting. He had checked on obtaining an icebox but was advised by the supplier that they did not have anymore boxes and would not be able to provide that. They are currently paying \$58.00 a month for ice and this is actually cheaper than anything else he came up with. The Board agreed that he should continue buying ice as he has done in the past.

Mr. Dunn also advised that he had met with the employee from RABB and they had looked at beaver dams in our District. The gentleman from RABB actually set some traps out and they caught one beaver. He is coming back as soon as the weather gets better to set out more traps. Eventually they are going to break all of the dams, but he does not want to do that until the beavers have been trapped because they will simply build the dams back.

Mr. Dunn also advised that his crew was continuing to trim trees where necessary.

The DOTD report was given by Brad Sticker. Mr. Sticker reported on the inspection reports that had been received and made available to the Board. He also reported on the structure under Highway 495 at Cloutierville. His office had received a draft of a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement to which changes were made in his office and sent back for finalization. Once the final draft is approved we will get a Project Number and DOTD can start the design process. He is hopeful that we will be able to start repairs within this calendar year.

Mr. Sticker further advised the Board that we had received from Facility and Planning permission to award the contract on the Lower Cane River Flood Gate improvements. The low bidder was Regional Construction, LLC. We must receive from Regional Construction the Attestation clause and a Performance Bond before we can execute the contract and provide a notice to proceed.

Mr. Sticker further advised that he and Mr. Dunn will develop a plan with respect to what needs to be done on a L-30, L-11 and L-11a.

Mr. Sticker further advised that he has confirmed that the Larry Hampton flood gates would be delivered in March. Consequently, the Board would need to approve the contractor's request to extend the completion date to March 27, 2014. A Motion was then made by Charles Brazzel, Jr. and seconded by Billy Giddens to extend the completion date for the Larry Hampton

flood dates to March 27, 2014 and to notify the contractor of this extension. The Motion passed unanimously.

In other business, Corkern presented the Board with photographs of a section of Boggy Bayou that Joe Regard had asked to be cleaned. Mr. Regard advised that because of obstructions and beaver dams, flooding was occurring more than a mile upstream. Billy Dunn advised that he was aware of this issue. Mr. Dunn advised that they had begun work on this area, but had to stop because of wet weather. As soon as it is dry enough they will finish cleaning the ditch. Corkern provided Mr. Dunn with Joe Regard's number in the event he needed to talk with him about access across his property or any other issues regarding this area.

There being no further business to come before the Board, a Motion was made by Charles Brazzel, Jr. and seconded by Doris Rogé to adjourn. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the Motion.

Approved on the 11th day of March, 2014, at Natchitoches, Louisiana, at a regularly held meeting.

RONALD E. CORKERN, JR.,
Attorney/Assistant Secretary